



# **“GO TO THE LOST; KICK OUT THE DEMONS”**

**SERMON JUNE 14, 2020**

## **GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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and  
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**LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD AS IT IS WRITTEN IN MATTHEW 9:35 TO CHAPTER 10: VS 1-3 AND 5-8. I READ FROM THE MESSAGE.**

***“THEN JESUS MADE A CIRCUIT OF ALL THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES. HE TAUGHT IN THEIR MEETING PLACES, REPORTED KINGDOM NEWS, AND HEALED THEIR DISEASED BODIES, HEALED THEIR BRUISED AND HURT LIVES. WHEN HE LOOKED OUT OVER THE CROWDS, HIS HEART BROKE. SO CONFUSED AND AIMLESS THEY WERE, LIKE SHEEP WITH NO SHEPHERD. “WHAT A HUGE HARVEST!” HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES. “HOW FEW WORKERS? ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY FOR HARVEST HANDS!” THE PRAYER WAS NO SOONER PRAYED THAN IT WAS ANSWERED. JESUS CALLED TWELVE OF HIS FOLLOWERS AND SENT THEM INTO THE RIPE FIELDS. HE GAVE THEM POWER TO KICK OUT THE EVIL SPIRITS AND TO TENDERLY CARE FOR THE BRUISED AND HURT LIVES.--- JESUS THEN SENT HIS TWELVE HARVEST HANDS OUT WITH THIS CHARGE: “DON’T BEGIN BY TRAVELING TO SOME FAR OFF PLACE TO CONVERT UNBELIEVERS. AND DON’T TRY TO BE DRAMATIC BY TACKLING SOME PUBLIC ENEMY. GO TO THE LOST, CONFUSED PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. TELL THEM THAT THE KINGDOM IS HERE. BRING HEALTH TO THE SICK. RAISE THE DEAD. TOUCH THE UNTOUCHABLES. KICK OUT THE DEMONS. YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED GENEROUSLY, SO LIVE GENEROUSLY.”***

***THIS MY FRIENDS IS THE WORD OF OUR GOD.***

***THANKS BE TO GOD.***

**“GO TO THE LOST. KICK OUT THE DEMONS” SAID JESUS**

**HE WAS LOOKING AROUND AS HE WAS TRAVELING AND PREACHING, AND CAME TO THIS PLACE WHERE HE SAW PEOPLE CONFUSED AND AIMLESS. NOTE THAT THIS PARTICULAR LOCATION IS NOT IDENTIFIED AT THIS POINT. MIGHT IT BE THAT IT IS RECORDED THAT WAY SO IT WOULD APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE CROWD?**

**THIS PASSAGE IS BASICALLY THE FIRST TIME WE SEE JESUS USING THE DISCIPLES TO BEGIN TO LEAD, AND TO TEACH. IN THE PAST THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING AND LISTENING. AS THEOLOGIAN CYNTHIA JARVIS SAYS, WHEN SPEAKING OF JESUS, “|HIS ONE MAN SHOW IS ABOUT TO BECOME AN ENSEMBLE OF CARE.” ACTUALLY BIBLICAL SCHOLARS NOTE THAT IN THIS PASSAGE, MATTHEW REFERS TO THE 12 AS APOSTLES, NOT DISCIPLES. THIS WOULD IMPLY THAT THESE ARE NOT MERELY FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, BUT ONES WHO WERE BEING SENT OUT TO WORK ON HIS BEHALF.**

**AND LET ME MENTION ONE OTHER IMPORTANT PART OF THIS PASSAGE WHICH CAN BE MISUNDERSTOOD.**

**THE FACT THAT JESUS CALLED UPON 12 MEN DOES NOT LIMIT THE TERM APOSTLES OR DISCIPLES TO MALES ONLY. THE GOSPEL TELLS US THAT THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE REACH AND WORK OF CHRIST. WOMEN IN CHRIST’S TIME WERE INDEED WITNESSING ACTIVELY FOR OUR LORD EVEN IN SOCIETAL NORMS AND LAWS PREVENTED THEM FROM BEING AS VISIBLE. AND TODAY, IN OUR OWN CONGREGATION WE ARE LED BY STRONG WOMEN OF FAITH, FULFILLING EVERY ROLE, WHO HELP TO ENABLE US TO BE MORE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS. INDEED, EVEN OUR DENOMINATION IS LEAD RIGHT NOW BY WOMEN CO MODERATORS WHO SERVE AS PROPHETS AND LEADERS.**

**I WONDER IF THE SCENE HE SAW WOULD LOOK VERY DIFFERENT IF HE WERE TO SHOW UP IN ASHEVILLE, OR WHEREVER YOU ARE TODAY? QUITE FRANKLY, IF HE WAS LOOKING AT ME, I WOULD FIT THAT SAME DESCRIPTION. THE HAPPENINGS OF MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS AROUND ME FEELS OUT OF CONTROL. I’M**

**TIRED OF BEING QUARANTINED!! I WANT TO HUG MY GRANDCHILDREN. SHOOT - I WANT TO HUG ANYBODY I SEE. I ALMOST HUGGED MY DENTAL HYGIENIST YESTERDAY, BEFORE I CAUGHT MYSELF. I MISS THE NORMAL. AND I WONDER WHAT NORMAL REALLY IS ANYMORE.**

**AND THEN I PONDER - NORMAL - DOES NORMAL MEAN THAT I MISS THE OLD. DOES IT MEAN I WISH TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, WHEN I NOW KNOW THAT THINGS WEREN'T SO GREAT FOR PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T WHITE, STRAIGHT MEN? DOES NORMAL TODAY MEAN GOING BACK BEFORE THESE LAST FEW WEEKS, WHEN WE HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF A RACISM THAT IS MORE THAN OUR PERSONAL PREJUDICES AND ACTIONS, BUT IS SYSTEMIC IN NATURE - WHERE I HAVE TO CONFESS SOME UNDERSTANDING OF A SYSTEM THAT HAS ALLOWED ME A CERTAIN TYPE OF LIFE NOT PROVIDED TO OTHERS?**

**DO WE REALLY DESIRE A LIFE WHERE BLACK PEOPLE ARE SLAVES. WHERE A SYSTEM OF RACISM IS POLLUTING THE GARDEN OF EDEN OF LIFE, AND WHERE OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS ARE LIVING IN FEAR AND TERROR.? DAILY I AM UNRAVELING RACIAL DIVIDES IN MY MIND WHICH HAVE AND ARE SO OBVIOUS IN SOME WAYS AND NEW REVELATIONS IN OTHERS? HOW MANY TIMES MIGHT I HAVE UNINTENTIONALLY OFFENDED MY BLACK FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES - AND THEY WERE TOO KIND, OR MAYBE TOO INTIMIDATED BY THE SYSTEM TO TELL ME, EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW OF ONE ANOTHER'S LOVE?**

**I AM 75 YEARS OLD. MUCH OF MY LIFE HAS INCLUDED BEING AN ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. IT MAY NOT ALWAYS HAVE BEEN IN PUBLIC PROTESTS OR VERBAL CONFRONTATIONS, ALTHOUGH I HAVE DONE THOSE TOO. YOU SEE, THE THING THAT GETS ME DOWN, THAT LEADS ME AT TIMES TO FEEL A LEVEL OF DEPRESSION I AM NOT USED TO, IS THAT I AM CONFUSED. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I WONDER - HAVE I AND MY GENERATION AS A RESULT OF OUR ACTIONS IN THE 50S AND 60'S AND BEYOND, MADE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL? AT MY AGE AND AND STAGE OF LIFE AM I TO START AGAIN - AS THOUGH I HAVEN'T CARED ABOUT THIS MATTER ALL MY LIFE? WHAT AM I GOING TO BE REQUIRED TO GIVE UP? LIKE THE PEOPLE JESUS SAW THAT DAY, I AM WAVING IN THE WINDS OF CHANGE AND NOT SURE WHERE I AM GOING TO LAND. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO SPEND THIS MORNING TELLING**

**YOU THAT WE AS WHITE PEOPLE WHO EMBRACE TRUE CHRISTIAN AND HUMANITARIAN VALUES NEED TO BE DOING CERTAIN THINGS AND ACTING IN CERTAIN WAYS. IN REALITY THERE ARE MANY WAYS THROUGH OUR SYSTEMS OF LIFE WE HAVE SPOKEN TO OTHER WHITE PEOPLE ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE'S FEELINGS AND HOW WE NEED TO "TREAT THEM". HOW ARROGANT!!!**

**ARE WE LISTENING? ARE WE FINALLY REALLY HEARING THE VOICES THAT ARE CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE AS NEVER BEFORE, AND LITERALLY EXPERIENCING THE EMOTIONS THAT ARE REPRESENTED IN THEIR CRIES FOR HELP? MIGHT WE BE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A SHARED PROBLEM, AND NOT A WE - THEY ISSUE. IT IS A PROBLEM OF OUR SYSTEMS, RATHER THAN MERELY OUR LONE VOICES, WHICH WE SHARE WITH ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN.**

**LIKE MANY OF YOU, MY LIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH DEEP AND ABIDING FRIENDSHIPS AMONG MY ASSOCIATES, AND EVEN FAMILY MEMBERS WITH DARKER SKINS. IN MY OWN THINKING I HAVE GENUINELY CARED, AND AT VARIOUS TIMES SOUGHT TO BRING ABOUT SOME LEVEL OF JUSTICE IN PLACES WHERE I HAVE HAD SOME AUTHORITY. BUT RIGHT NOW I AM HEARING THESE FRIENDS OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO ME IN WAYS THAT ARE NEW, AND DIFFERENT.**

**ONE OF THOSE FRIENDS IS THE PRESIDENT OF UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY IN RICHMOND, DR. BRIAN BLOUNT. BRIAN IS A BRILLIANT MAN, THOUGH HE WOULD SHRUG FROM THAT IDENTIFICATION. HE IS A WORLD WIDE RESPECTED BIBLE SCHOLAR AND AN EFFECTIVE AND BELOVED ADMINISTRATOR. HE IS STRONG, AND CAPABLE AND ALWAYS PRESENTS HIMSELF AS CALM AND IN CONTROL. HE IS A SINCERE AND HONEST FRIEND AND I LOVE HIM. BRIAN, THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY VIA TECHNOLOGY.**

**I NEED YOU TO HELP ME. HELP US. YOU, AN EDUCATED, FINANCIALLY SECURE, CAPABLE LEADER WHO HAS LIVED IN THIS SOCIETY AS A BLACK MAN - HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY?**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK WE AS WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD BE DOING ABOUT ALL THIS UNREST AND UPHEAVAL? IS THIS A QUESTION PEOPLE ARE ASKING YOU?**

## **BRIAN BLOUNT**

*If white Christians were to ask me, a black Christian, what they should do in response to the spiral of racially sparked violence into which we are rapidly and inevitably descending, I have pondered the response I would give. Strange, since no one has asked, that I nonetheless feel compelled to answer.*

*I feel compelled because I am afraid. I am afraid because I fear that my voice is too insignificant to matter. I am afraid because I fear that while what I say bears insufficient weight to make a difference, it carries just enough potency to get me in trouble. I am afraid because I fear bringing trouble on myself when my people are writhing in a perpetual abyss of systemic injustice. I am afraid because I fear that one day, long after I have died, my son and daughter will still weep at news about a black individual murdered while sitting in her home, running in his community, walking home from his corner store, driving in her car, standing in his front yard, exploring in his park, worshiping in her church, lying helpless on an American street, the full weight of a cavalier, almost casual, curiously disinterested, white anger crushing his throat beneath its self-righteous, imperious knee. I am afraid because I fear a reckoning on the streets if we cannot find justice in the courts, redress in our politics, realignment of our institutional policies, and reconsideration of our racial values. I am afraid because I fear that when I am called to my own final reckoning the record will show that I didn't do my part. I didn't witness. Not enough.*

**BRIAN. THOSE ARE POWERFUL WORDS WHICH INDICATE A DEPTH OF FEELING WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED BEFORE. IT APPALS ME TO THINK THAT YOU ARE AND HAVE BEEN AFRAID? I KNOW YOUR FAITH IS STRONG, STRONGER THAN MOST ANYONE ELSE I KNOW, SO YOU DON'T HAVE FEAR THAT SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD. BUT ONCE AGAIN I AM CONFRONTED BY MY NAIVETE AND LIMITED AWARENESS BECAUSE I AM NOT BLACK. THERE IS NO WAY I REALLY FULLY UNDERSTAND. AND I SEEK YOUR AND OTHERS FORGIVENESS AS I LIVE IN A SOCIAL SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T EVEN ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.**

**YOU KNOW, IT MAKES ME THINK AGAIN ABOUT WHAT JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES IN OUR SCRIPTURE TODAY. THE BIBLE SAYS "HE LOOKED OUT OVER THE CROWDS, AND HIS HEART BROKE. SO CONFUSED AND AIMLESS THEY WERE, LIKE SHEEP WITH NO SHEPHERD. "WHAT A HUGE HARVEST" HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES. "HOW FEW WORKERS! ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY FOR HARVEST HANDS".**

WHAT IS HE SAYING TO US TODAY - US IN THIS BASICALLY WHITE CHURCH FAMILY - WHO SINCERELY WANT TO HELP WITH THE HARVEST. AS WE OBSERVE BLACK PEOPLE BEING MURDERED - AND MISTREATED - NOT ONLY BY SOME CORRUPT POLICE OFFICERS, BUT BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY - WHY IS IT THAT WE HAVE NOT RISEN UP BEFORE IN ONE SOLID VOICE AND SAID, "NO. THIS IS NOT RIGHT".

POSSIBLY ITS BECAUSE I TOO AM AFRAID. MY FEARS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS BRIAN - AND I DO NOT INTEND FOR THEM TO BE VIEWED AS EQUAL OR EVEN SIMILAR. NONETHELESS, HERE ARE SOME OF MY FEARS -

I FEAR THAT THOSE THINGS I WOULD NEED TO GIVE UP TO ACHIEVE RACIAL EQUALITY IN OUR NATION WOULD BE SO SEVERE THAT MOST OF WHAT I HAVE SEEN AS EARTHLY SECURITY MIGHT BE LOST.

I FEAR THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO WHICH I HAVE BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED WOULD BE ALTERED SO DRAMATICALLY THAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE CHANGES AND THEY WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY THREATEN MY GRANDCHILDREN'S FUTURE.

I FEAR THAT I COULD BECOME SO FRUSTRATED BY THE SMALL NUMBERS OF BLACK PEOPLE WHO ARE ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARE JUST SINFUL AND UNLAWFUL CITIZENS, AND NOT REMEMBER THAT ANY HUMAN BEING CAN BE PUSHED BEYOND HER OR HIS LIMITS WHEN 'FEELING POWERLESS AND HOPELESS. I FEAR THAT THE BREACH OF TRUST AND LOVE IN SOME FAMILY AND FRIEND RELATIONSHIPS MIGHT BE SO SEVERED AS TO CUT ME OFF FROM PEOPLE I HAVE LOVED ALL MY LIFE. MOST OF ALL, I AM AFRAID THAT MY TRUST IN GOD WOULD BE TESTED TO A DEGREE THAT I WOULD BE AKIN TO PETER - AND THAT THE ROOSTER WOULD CROW WHEN I DENIED KNOWING JESUS FOR A THIRD TIME. OH DEAR GOD PLEASE NO.

BRIAN, LET ME COME BACK TO YOU. ARE WE WHITE PEOPLE EVEN BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION SO THAT WE MIGHT BEGIN TO DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO? AS A CELEBRATED BIBLE SCHOLAR, YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE WHICH SO MANY OF US DO NOT. FOR INSTANCE, YOU ARE KNOWN AS

**AN EXPERT ON THE APOCALYPSE. DO YOU SEE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE APOCALYPSE? TO WHOM SHOULD WE TURN FOR DIRECT GUIDANCE AND INSIGHT?**

**SHOULD WE ESPECIALLY LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF BLACK PEOPLE, OR SHOULD WE BE SPEAKING MORE BOLDLY OURSELVES - CONFRONTING ONE ANOTHER AS WHITE PEOPLE?**

*BRIAN BLOUNT*

*White Christians are not witnessing. Not enough.*

*In the Apocalypse, the world is possessed by systemic evil. That evil manifested itself in an imperial reign that demanded a fealty the Apocalypse's author claimed belonged solely to Christ. Rome wanted to be worshiped. Christ believers could respond in one of two ways. They could patriotically idolize Rome or they could witness to the Lordship of Christ. Either. Or.*

*Rome promised to punish anyone who refused to render the reverence it believed it was due. Writing to seven churches located in the belly of this imperial, bestial declaration of religious and political supremacy, John of Patmos pleaded for a witness to an alternative truth. The only leader who deserved fidelity and worship was this Jesus who died on a Roman cross. It was not Rome's empire but his resurrected Reign that should be revered and realized. He spilled his blood in an effort to inaugurate that Reign. He did his part. Our Christian part is to witness to that Reign in the way we speak our words and live our lives. That is our formula for reckoning with systemic evil that possesses institutions and drives individuals mad. The Blood of the Lamb. The Witness of the Lamb's Followers. Us black and you white Christians.*

*What does a Reign under the Lordship of Christ look like? Before we can witness for it we must know what it is. If we could see into God's future the way John saw through his open door into transcendence, perhaps we would know. We are not that farsighted. But our hindsight ought to be 20/20. Because it is written in a record for us. If Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of the Apocalypse, then we have a glimpse of what a Reign under his rule would look like? We have something for which to witness. In the Gospel vision. There, lepers are touched. There are no Eric Garners who cannot breathe. There, the sick are unilaterally healed. There are no Ahmaud Arberys demonically hunted to death. There, codes and laws too legalistically and unjustly applied are broken. There are no Breonna Taylors, shot eight times, when their homes are broken into by law enforcement. There, men once incapacitated by paralysis walk. There are no George Floyds paralyzed beneath the weight of ruthless state agents. There, systems of ethnic segregation are broken open by the vision of a house of prayer for all the nations. There is no aspiration of a rule where one people structure society so that it perpetually privileges them and those like them.*

*We know from hindsight the promise of Jesus' vision. We know what it intends. Our calling is to witness to it. No matter the cross.*

**I FIND MY KNEES GROWING WEAK AS I HEAR YOUR WORDS BRIAN. I KNOW I HAVE BEEN CALLED TO WITNESS, BUT NOW - IT SEEMS THAT I NEED TO BE WILLING TO RISK EVEN MORE. I NEED TO FIND WAYS TO PUT MYSELF OUT THERE. ALL THE EXCUSES TO REMAIN SAFE IN MY LITTLE COCOON OF LIFE NEED TO BE QUESTIONED. I HAVE SEEN A MAN MY AGE PUSHED TO THE GROUND BY POLICE AND HITTING HIS HEAD ON THE SIDEWALK SO BADLY AS TO KNOCK HIM UNCONSCIOUS - AND THEN BEING SHAMED BY OUR NATION'S PRESIDENT AS A CRIMINAL SPY. SO DO I RISK IT? AM I WILLING TO BE THE APOSTLE THAT CHRIST IS CALLING FOR IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE?**

**HOW I WOULD HOPE SO. OH, HOW I WOULD HOPE.**

**BUT BRIAN, LET ME ASK YOU ONE MORE QUESTION, AND I'M REALLY IMPOSING ON YOUR PRIVACY AND OUR FRIENDSHIP BY DOING THIS. BRIAN, YOU HAVE LISTED A NUMBER OF YOUR SIGNIFICANT FEARS CONCERNING THIS TIME IN OUR HISTORY. BUT IS THERE AN UNDERLYING REASON THAT YOU FEEL AFRAID? AND DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE TO OFFER?**

BRIAN BLOUNT

*I am afraid because I know I am not witnessing. Not enough.*

*I am afraid because I know that white Christians are not witnessing. Not enough.*

*Why does our country need white Christians to witness more than they are? More now even than black Christians and black people of every faith and of no faith?*

*Whether it's individual acts of brutality or systemic oppression, it is hard to maneuver successfully for change when your hands are shackled, your legs are taken out from beneath you, and someone is kneeling on your neck. You need the people who wield economic, political, police, and military power to reign in the agents they have authorized to act on their behalf, to rain down change upon the systems their forebears have spent centuries erecting. To privilege themselves.*

*You need them to witness.*



*Not just spiritually. Tangibly. Not just with well-intentioned prayer. With concrete action. Not just from the pulpit and in the sanctuary. Out in the world, on the streets of their cities, in the corridors of their power.*

*No, this evil of enduring American racism is not just a Christian problem. But for a people who claim to follow a Jesus who died on a cross for all people, and whom we claim reigns in heaven interceding with God for all people, it is an evil we must especially engage. We cannot claim to witness to this risen Christ and simultaneously allow our country's descent into this racial abyss.*

*We Christian people can make a difference. We must help defeat this draconian, systemic evil. By our witness. Before it is too late.*

**YOU SPEAK TO MY HEART, BROTHER BRIAN. THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO OPEN MY EYES A LITTLE BIT MORE TODAY THAN THEY HAVE BEEN BEFORE. AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A NEW WAY TO FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL WORDS WE HEARD TODAY.**

**AS WE RETURN TO OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE FOR TODAY, REMEMBER THAT JESUS SAID, "DON'T BEGIN BY TRAVELING TO SOME FAR OFF PLACE TO CONVERT UNBELIEVERS. GO TO THE LOST, CONFUSED PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. TELL THEM THAT THE KINGDOM IS HERE. TOUCH THE UNTOUCHABLES. KICK OUT THE DEMONS. YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED GENEROUSLY, SO LIVE GENEROUSLY."**

**ISN'T THAT WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO?**

**EACH OF US, REGARDLESS OF RACE OR GENDER OR ANY OTHER PART OF WHO WE ARE THAT WE LABEL AS DIFFERENT, BUT AS BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD, EACH LOVED IN OUR OWN WAYS, ARE BEING CALLED TO GO OUT AS APOSTLES IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. GO AHEAD AND TALK TO THOSE FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT SEE THE LIGHT. BE WILLING TO SPEAK UP IF YOU OVERHEAR SOMEONE WHO IS SPEAKING IN PREJUDICIAL OR DISCRIMINATORY WAYS. IF CHRIST IS CALLING US, DO WE NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WILL LEAD US, AND PROTECT US? WE CAN BE FILLED WITH HOPE AND OPTIMISM INSTEAD OF DREAD AND FEAR IF WE BUT PUT OUR TRUST IN GOD.**

**MY FRIENDS, MAY IT BE SO. MAY WE SEEK TO HEAL, AND ULTIMATELY TO ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN AS WE "GO TO THE LOST, KICK OUT THE DEMONS" - WORKING AND SERVING TOGETHER. AND MAY WE SING WITH ONE VOICE, BLACK AND WHITE, MALE AND FEMALE, YOUNG AND OLD, TO THE GOD WHO LOVES US ALL - EQUALLY, COMPASSIONATELY, AND WITH JUSTICE. AMEN**